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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,089	10/10/2006	Danny Louis Cornelius Morlion	003D.0079.U1(US)	2886
29683	7590	10/16/2007		
HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			EXAMINER DUPUIS, DEREK L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2883	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/554,089	MORLION ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Derek L. Dupuis	2883	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/21/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 10/21/2005 has been considered by the examiner.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 10/21/2005. These drawings are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Aldridge et al (US 2002/0150332 A1).

6. Regarding claim 1, Aldridge et al disclose an assembly as seen in figure 2b. The assembly includes a protective cover (48) and a circuit board (40) comprising one or more optical conductors (42). The optical conductors (42) are embedded in the circuit board (40) as shown in figure 4b. The board (40) comprises an optical cavity exposing at least a part of the

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embedded optical conductors. The protection cover (48) is adapted to use the cavity as a reference to cover the optical cavity (see paragraph 53 and the abstract).

7. Regarding claim 8, Aldridge et al disclose an assembly as discussed above in reference to claim 1. The circuit board (40) comprises at least one connector header arrangement (the cavity hole) for accepting a connector for coupling to the optical fibers. The protection cover (48) is adapted to fit within the connector header arrangement. See paragraph 53.

8. Regarding claim 10, Aldridge et al disclose an assembly as discussed above in reference to claim 1. The cavity is adapted to accommodate a coupling device (GRIN lens 44) for coupling an optical connector to the conductors (42). The protection cover (48) is adapted to accommodate for the coupling device as seen in figure 2b.

9. Regarding claim 11, Aldridge et al disclose a protection cover (48) for use in an assembly as discussed above in reference to claim 1.

10. Regarding claim 12, Aldridge et al disclose a circuit board (40) for use in an assembly as discussed above in reference to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 2-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Aldridge et al (US 2002/0150332 A1) as applied to claims 1, 8, and 10-12 above, and further in view of *Ziegler et al (US 2003/0059172 A1)*.

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13. Regarding claims 2-7, and 9, Aldridge et al teach an assembly as discussed above in reference to claim 1. Aldridge et al do not teach specifics regarding the structure of the plug; however, such plug structures are routine and common in the art as is evidenced by Ziegler et al. Ziegler et al teach a protective cover (35 in Figure 5) that includes attaching means (36) for joining said protective cover (35) with the cavity. The optical cavity is adapted to accommodate a mounting frame (18) comprising holding features (7) where the attachment means (36) of the cover (35) engage with the holding features (7) of the mounting frame. The mounting frame comprises fastening means (17) for fixing the mounting frame (18) within the cavity. The attachment means comprise flexible attachment means such as springs (see paragraph 18). The cover comprises an adhering structure (36) for adhering the cover (35) to the board. The protective cover (35) includes a handling grip (upper flanged surface) for handling the cover (35). While not explicitly stated, using metal for connectorized plug assemblies is routine and notoriously well known in the art.

14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the assembly of Aldridge et al to utilize plugs with the features disclosed by Ziegler et al. Motivation would be to create a sealed cover that serves as protection against grime (see paragraph 33).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Derek L. Dupuis whose telephone number is (571) 272-3101.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Derek L. Dupuis
Group Art Unit 2883

Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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